

Date Mailed
December 4, 1998

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Investigation of Telecommunications Utility Price Regulation
Pursuant to §196.196(1)(g), Stats.

05-TI-174

**NOTICE OF THIRD TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
AND SECOND PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

Technical Conference Date: December 18, 1998 - 10 a.m.	Conferences Location: Public Service Commission Building 610 North Whitney Way Amnicom Falls Hearing Room Madison, WI
Prehearing Conference Date: December 18, 1998 - 11 a.m.	

Telecommunications utility price regulation is a method of regulation established by 1993 Wisconsin Act 496, whereby the average prices for basic local exchange services are limited by a formula based on inflation, as adjusted for a productivity offset, and incentives and penalties for infrastructure investment and service quality performance. Price regulation also requires reductions and other limitations for intrastate access charges, but eliminates most of the Commission's authority to review rates for all other services.

The Commission initiated this docket to perform a review of price regulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.196(1)(g). The review will include Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin (Ameritech), and GTE North Incorporated (GTE North), the only two telecommunications utilities electing price regulation under Wis. Stat. § 196.196(1).

In accordance with the Notice of Investigation, Technical Conference, Prehearing Conference, and Assessment of Costs in this proceeding, dated April 23, 1998 (April Notice), and the instructions of the Hearing Examiner at the prehearing conference of May 12, 1998, Commission staff issued a report on November 17, 1998, discussing its findings on the impact of price regulation. In addition, the report presents staff's recommendations for the future under price regulation. Copies of the staff report can be obtained by contacting Thomas Ferris, Telecommunications Division, by mail at 610 North Whitney Way, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854, by phone at (608) 266-1124, or by email at ferrit@psc.state.wi.us.

According to the April Notice, staff will make a presentation to parties and other interested persons, at the December 18, 1998, technical conference, regarding the report on its findings. At the May 12, 1998, prehearing conference, it was determined that parties may file alternative proposals for the future under price regulation by December 9, 1998. The April Notice did not contemplate the filing of alternative proposals by other parties. As a result, rather

than only having staff make a presentation at the December 18, 1998, technical conference, it is reasonable to have each party and the staff give a very brief summary of their proposals. Each summary should be limited to approximately five minutes. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer session. The time devoted to follow-up questions is not intended to provide parties the opportunity for discovery or cross-examination; it is intended as an opportunity for parties to obtain a clear understanding of the staff and other parties' proposals.

The presentations will be followed by a second prehearing conference. At the first prehearing conference, held May 12, 1998, a list of issues, and a schedule for filing of testimony and exhibits, and other dates, were established. The purpose of the second prehearing conference is to: (1) refine and modify the list of issues; (2) identify persons who will actively participate as full parties; (3) adjust the date and time for a hearing, if necessary; (4) adjust dates for filing of prefiled testimony and exhibits, if necessary; and (5) any other matter that will facilitate the hearing.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commission will hold a technical conference followed by a prehearing conference on **December 18, 1998**, beginning at **10 a.m.**, in the Amnicon Falls Hearing Room (Rm. 1300), at the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin. The prehearing conference will commence at **11 a.m.** This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way first floor entrance (lobby). Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding, or who needs to get staff's report in a different format, should contact Thomas Ferris, the case coordinator, at (608) 266-1124, as soon as possible. Hearing or speech impaired individuals may also use the Commission's TTY number, (608) 267-1479.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Thomas Ferris, Audit Manager, Telecommunications Division, at (608) 266-1124.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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